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LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.   (Currently Amended): A tablet computer assembly, comprising:

a global positioning system module that produces location information associated with the position of the tablet computer assembly;

an L-band transceiver that broadcasts the location information to a satellite relay and receives location information from at least one portable communications device via the satellite relay; ~~and~~

a processing unit that provides messages to the L-band transceiver and updates a display associated with the tablet computer assembly according the received location information and the location information produced at the global positioning system module; and

a Faraday cage that encloses the L-band transceiver and the global positioning system module to reduce electromagnetic interference with the L-band transceiver and the global positioning module, the Faraday cage being configured as a heat sink to draw heat from the L-band transceiver away from the processing unit, the Faraday cage being mounted to a back of the processing unit.

2   (Original): The tablet computer assembly of claim 1, the processing unit comprising a system memory that contains geographic information concerning an area of interest.

3.   (Original): The tablet computer assembly of claim 2, the system memory comprising at least one flash memory card.

4.   (Original): The tablet computer assembly of claim 1, further comprising an input/output board that regulates power and logic connections between the processing unit and the L-band transceiver.

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5.   (Original): The tablet computer assembly of claim 1, the display associated with the processing unit being a touchscreen display.

6.   (Currently Amended): The tablet computer assembly of claim 1, further comprising a single, detachable antenna that can be operatively connected to the tablet computer by a user to facilitate the transmission and reception of messages by the L-band ~~transmitter~~ <u>transceiver</u> and <u>reception of data at</u> the global positioning module.

7.   (Original): The tablet computer assembly of claim 6, the antenna comprising a quadrifilar helix antenna.

8-25. (Cancelled).

26.   (New): The tablet computer assembly of claim 1, wherein the Faraday cage is comprised of a back plate of the processing unit that forms one wall of the Faraday cage and a metallic enclosure that encloses the L-band transceiver and the global positioning system module and forms a back of the tablet computer assembly..

27.   (New): The tablet computer assembly of claim 26, wherein the back plate includes at least one opening to admit one or more data communication connections and a power supply cable between a digital board and the processing unit, the digital board residing in the Faraday cage and having control circuitry for controlling the L-band transceiver and the global positioning system module..

28.   (New): The tablet computer assembly of claim 27, wherein the L-band transceiver comprises a plurality of discrete components, and the Faraday cage comprises metal shielding

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within the metallic enclosure to reduce electromagnetic interference between the plurality of discrete components within the Faraday cage.

29.   (New): A portable communications system, comprising:

       a global positioning system module that produces location information associated with the position of the tablet computer assembly;

       a transceiver that broadcasts the location information directly to a satellite relay and receives location information from at least one portable communications device via the satellite relay;

       a tablet computer, operatively connected to the transceiver and the global positioning module through at least one aperture in a back plate of the tablet computer, that provides messages to the transceiver and updates a display associated with the tablet computer assembly according the received location information and the location information produced at the global positioning system module; and

       a Faraday cage that encloses the transceiver and the global positioning system module to reduce electromagnetic interference, the Faraday cage comprising the back plate of the tablet computer that forms one wall of the Faraday cage and a metallic enclosure that encloses the transceiver and the global positioning system module and forms a back of the tablet computer, the Faraday cage being configured as a heat sink to draw heat from the L-band transceiver away from the tablet computer.

30.   (New): The portable communications system of claim 29, further comprising an antenna operatively connected to the transceiver and the global positioning module that facilitates the transmission and reception of messages by the transceiver and reception of data at the global positioning module.

31.   (New): The portable communications system of claim 29, wherein the antenna comprises a detachable quadrifilar helix antenna.

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32.   (New): The portable communications system of claim 29, wherein the transceiver comprises an L-band transceiver.

33.   (New): The portable communications system of claim 32, wherein the transceiver comprises a plurality of discrete components, and the Faraday cage comprises metal shielding within the metallic enclosure to reduce electromagnetic interference between the plurality of discrete components within the Faraday cage.

34.   (New): A tablet computer assembly, comprising:

          a global positioning system module that produces location information associated with the position of the tablet computer assembly;

          an L-band transceiver that broadcasts the location information to a satellite relay and receives location information from at least one portable communications device via the satellite relay;

          a processing unit that provides messages to the L-band transceiver and updates a display associated with the tablet computer assembly according the received location information and the location information produced at the global positioning system module; and

          a single, detachable antenna operatively connected to the L-band transceiver and the global positioning module that facilitates the transmission and reception of messages by the L-band transceiver and reception of data at the global positioning module.

35.   (New): The tablet computer assembly of claim 34, the antenna comprising a detachable quadrifilar helix antenna.

36.   (New): The tablet computer assembly of claim 34, further comprising a transceiver control that is operative to maintain the global positioning system module to a sleep state until it

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is necessary to produce location information for the tablet computer assembly, such that signals received at the antenna are provided only to the L-band transceiver during the sleep state of the global positioning system.

37. (New): The tablet computer assembly of claim 34, further comprising a Faraday cage that encloses the L-band transceiver to reduce electromagnetic interference, the Faraday cage being configured as a heat sink to draw heat from the L-band transceiver away from the processing unit.

38. (New): The tablet computer assembly of claim 37, the Faraday cage comprising a metallic enclosure that encloses the L-band transceiver, wherein a back plate of the processing unit forms one wall of the metallic enclosure and a back of the tablet computer forms the remaining portion of the Faraday cage.

39. (New): The tablet computer assembly of claim 38, wherein the L-band transceiver comprises a plurality of discrete components, and the Faraday cage comprises metal shielding within the metallic enclosure to reduce electromagnetic interference between the plurality of discrete components within the Faraday cage.

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